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device, and contacting each of the soiled dishes with the device such that the soiled dishes are cleaned.

REMARKS

Application Amendments:

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 have been canceled without prejudice.

New Claims 12-20 have been added. Support for new Claims 12-20 is found in the Specification and in the Original claims as filed.

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Upon entry of these Claim amendments, Claims 12-20 are pending. No additional claims fee above and beyond the basic filing fee is believed to be due.

Discussion of Previously Cited Prior Art

In an effort to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicants desire to briefly discuss the previously cited prior art; namely, U.S. Patent No. 5,387,373 to Naik ("Naik") and U.S. Patent No. 5,858,950 to Surutzidis et al. ("Surutzidis").

Applicants respectfully submit that Naik and Surutzidis fail to teach or suggest, and even teach away from, an aqueous liquid detergent composition comprising a surfactant mixture comprising alkyl alkoxy sulfate, wherein from 20-60% by weight of the total alkyl alkoxy sulfate is branched, and amine oxide. Specifically, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's emphasis on Example B of Naik. Applicants submit that Example B of Naik, which is a comparative example, teaches a composition comprising a surfactant mixture comprising an alkyl alkoxy sulfate (60% of which is branched) and a betaine, not an amine oxide as claimed in claims 12-20. Whereas Surutzidis clearly relates only to low-sudsing detergent compositions, rather than high-sudsing dishwashing-type compositions.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 12-20 are novel and nonobvious over the teachings of Naik and Surutzidis, alone or combined.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to distinguish the claimed invention from the applied documents and to place the present application in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, entry of the claim amendments, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks provided, and allowance of new Claims 12-20 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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